

ward revision of other allowances and parks from the date of settlement.

(c) The total number of employees who will be benefited is about 6120.

(d) ITDC's turnover for the year 1995-96 was Rs. 298.05 crores.

[Translation]

Schemes to Improve Postal Services

3441. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive Scheme to streamline the Postal services during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target fixed and achievements made under the scheme during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b). Programmes of development through the respective Annual Plans of the department are

aimed at improving and streamlining the postal services, and Annual Plans for 1995-96 and 1996-97 also contained such programmes as indicated below:

1. Introduction of computer based multi purpose counter machines;
2. Automatisation of mail processing large nodal centres;
3. Setting up of Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) Network for speedy transmission of money orders and provision of other value added services;
4. Use of computers for Savings Bank, Postal Life Insurance and Speed Post operations;
5. Modernisation of the counter services and the front office activities in selected important post offices;
6. Provision of upgraded operational equipment in more important Post Offices to modernize work process;
7. Expansion of Postal Network.

(c) The physical targets and achievements in respect of these schemes for the year 1995-96 and targets for the current Annual Plan 1996-97 are as below:

Scheme	Targets 1995-96	Achievements as on 31-03-1996	Targets 1996-97
1. Upgradation of Technology :			
a. Multi purpose counter machines	1000	550	1500
b. Modernisation of Post Offices	350	366	380
c. Automated integrated Mail Processing System	1	1	-
d. Satellite Money Order Service	Completion of Phase I (75 VSATs)	61	14
e. Savings Bank		-	-
(i) Local Area Network (LAN)	100	45 LAN equipment installed	200
(ii) Savings Bank Control Organisation	60	105	100
f. Postal Life Insurance			
(i) Computerisation of PLI work in Circles	3	3	-

Scheme	Targets 1995-96	Achievements as on 31-03-1996	Targets 1996-97
(ii) Upgradation of Computer system	-	-	4
g. Speed Post			
(i) Track & Trace System	20	6	4
h. Provision of upgraded equipment	200	245	200
2. Expansion of Postal Network:			
a. Opening of Extra-departmental branch offices	80	4	80
b. Opening of Departmental Sub-Offices	150	53	150
c. Opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras	500	497	250

The programmes for the year 1996-97 are under implementation an achievements can be quantified only after completion of the period.

[English]

Postal Services in Rural Areas

3442. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have reviewed the mail delivery and other postal services in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon? ,

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government systematically monitors and reviews at the field and Headquarters level the delivery of mails in the rural areas. Other postal services in the rural areas are also periodically subjected to scrutiny and review. There is also a system of conducting regular surveys through inspectorial staff for examining the justification of opening Post Offices.

(b) The Postal Services in the rural areas are generally satisfactory but occasional delays in delivery of mails do occur due to unforeseen transportation problems and other such reasons beyond the control of the Department.

(c) (i) The review of delivery of mails is an ongoing process. The reasons for delays to mails, if any, are identified by carrying out surveys at different levels.

(ii) The Postal services are being extended progressively by opening new Post Offices. Under the 8th Five Year Plan,

so far, 1312 Post Office have been sanctioned in the rural areas of the country.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance for the Welfare of Tribals

3443. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some foreign institutions have provided financial assistance to the organisations of different States in the country, particularly in Gujarat for the welfare of tribals during the last three years and till date;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether various organisations in Gujarat have misused the financial assistance received from foreign institutions;
- (d) if so, whether the Union Government have received any complaints in this regard during the last three years;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;
- (f) the details of guidelines being issued by the Union Government to the State Governments to ensure the proper utilisation of financial assistance being received from abroad for the welfare of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes; and
- (g) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government against those social organisations which are not